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San Francisco Readies for 79th Annual Meeting of APHA: Preliminary Program Announced

The welcome mat is going down in San Francisco in readiness for more than 5,000 delegates expected to attend the Seventy-ninth Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in the City by the Golden Gate October 29th through November 2d. The conclave will attract public health specialists to California from all parts of the Western Hemisphere. It will be the first annual meeting of the APHA to be held in the West in 17 years.

The first day, Monday, October 29th, has been set aside for meetings of the APHA's Western Branch and sessions of some 38 related organizations. Section meetings of the APHA get under way Tuesday morning, October 30th, and continue through Friday afternoon. General sessions will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

One of the highlights of the meeting will come with the First General Session on Tuesday evening, October 30th, when Governor Earl Warren will appear as principal speaker. Addresses of welcome will be given by San Francisco's Mayor Elmer E. Robinson; Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, San Francisco City and County; Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, State Director of Public Health; and Thomas A. Brooks, Chief Administrative Officer, San Francisco City and County.

The APHA meeting is open to all persons interested in public health and related fields. The registration fee for members is \$3; for nonmembers \$4. However, no badges or other registration credentials will be required for meetings scheduled for Monday morning. On this point, the American School Health Association, which has sessions scheduled Monday morning and afternoon, extends a special invitation to teachers and

other school health personnel, as well as to convention delegates, to attend.

Many sessions of the 13 sections of the APHA will run concurrently. In addition, a number of joint sessions have been planned. Alumni of the the various Schools of Public Health and Delta Omega, honorary public health society, will hold breakfast, luncheon and other sessions at variously announced times.

San Francisco's Civic Auditorium will serve as convention headquarters. Meetings will also be held at three other locations—Whitcomb Hotel, Palace Hotel and the War Memorial Opera House.

The following highlights are taken from an APHA announcement of the preliminary program as it appears in the September issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*. Final programs will be distributed during registration.

Western Branch Activities

Activities of the Western Branch will be limited to a breakfast at the Whitcomb Hotel at 8 a.m. Monday, followed by a general session. Luncheon and afternoon meetings will be held by three sections of Western Branch—the Venereal Disease Control Section, the Industrial Hygiene Section (meets jointly with Industrial Hygiene Section of the APHA), and the Sanitation Section.

Monday at 2.30 p.m. the Laboratory Section will hold a joint session with the Conference of State and Provincial Public Health Laboratory Directors. At the same time the Records and Statistics Section will meet with the American Association of Registration Executives.

The Public Health Education Section, Western Branch, will meet Monday at 8 p.m. for a business session and election of officers.

A reception for the President of the American Public Health Association, Dr. William P. Shepard, will be held in the Palace Hotel from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday. (Informal.)

Meetings of Related Organizations -

The following organizations will meet Monday, October 29th:

Morning and afternoon sessions, 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

Association of Business Management in Public Health.
Conference of State Directors of Public Health Education.
American School Health Association—Morning topics will include psychological testing, use of the Wetzel Grid, medical services, and dental problems in school systems. Topic for the afternoon session will be "Health Teaching in the Public Schools."

Conference of Public Health Veterinarians.
Public Health Cancer Association—"Tools for Cancer Control." This session will include papers on the role of state health departments in the study of occupational cancer, professional education and training in cancer control, and cancer nursing education.

Monday, 9.30 a.m.

American Association of Registration Executives.
Conference of Municipal Public Health Engineers.
Conference of State and Provincial Public Health Laboratory Directors.
Council of State Directors of Public Health Nursing.

Monday, 12.30 p.m.

APHA Governing Council—Luncheon and afternoon session.
Conference of Municipal Public Health Engineers—Luncheon.
Conference of Professors of Preventive Medicine—Luncheon and afternoon session.

Monday, 2.30 p.m.

Association of Maternal and Child Health and Crippled Children's Directors—Afternoon and evening session.
Conference for Health Council Work.
Topic: New Developments in Community Organization for Health.
Conference of Municipal Public Health Engineers and Conference of State Sanitary Engineers (joint session).
National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Monday, 6.30 p.m.

Conference for Health Council Work—Dinner and evening session.
Conference of Public Health Veterinarians—Dinner and evening session.
Engineering Section, Conference of Municipal Public Health Engineers, Conference of State Sanitary Engineers, and the Western Branch Sanitation Section.
Public Health Cancer Association—Dinner and evening session.

Monday, 8 p.m.

Association of Reserve Officers at the U. S. Public Health Service.

Tuesday, 8 a.m. (Breakfast Sessions).

Commissioned Officers Association of the U. S. Public Health Service.
National Advisory Council, Cleveland Health Museum.

Tuesday, 9.30 a.m.

Dental Health, Engineering, and Health Officers Sections (joint session). Topic: Water Fluoridation.
Epidemiology Section.
Food and Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health Sections, and the American School Health Association (joint session). Topic: Long-Term Illness in Children.

Industrial Hygiene, Medical Care, and Public Health Nursing Sections (joint session). Topic: Rehabilitation of the Industrial Worker.

Laboratory Section.

Public Health Education Section. Topic: The Year's Accomplishments.

Statistics Section and American Association of Registration Executives (joint session). Topic: Statistical Needs in Civil Defense.

School Health Section.

Tuesday, 12.30 p.m. (Luncheon Sessions).

Delta Omega.

Food and Nutrition Section.

Public Health Nursing Section.

Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.

Dental Health, Maternal and Child Health, and School Health Sections, and the American School Health Association (joint session). Topic: Priorities in Health Services for Children of School Age.

Engineering, Epidemiology, Health Officers, and Laboratory Sections (joint sessions). Topic: Biological Warfare Defense.
Food and Nutrition, Public Health Education, and Public Health Nursing Sections, and the American School Health Association (joint session). Topic: What Can We Believe About Nutrition?

Industrial Hygiene Section.

Medical Care Section. Topic: Medical Care for the Needy.

Statistics Section.

Tuesday, 8.30 p.m. (First General Session).

Governor Warren will address the meeting.

Wednesday, 8 a.m. (Breakfast Sessions).

Columbia University School of Public Health Alumni Graduates' Organization, School of Hygiene, University of Toronto.

The Johns Hopkins University Alumni.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Alumni.

University of Michigan Alumni.

Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. (First Special Session.) Topic: Aging Challenges Public Health.

Engineering Section. Topic: Manpower.

Food and Nutrition Section. Topic: Nutritional Status of Peoples in the Pacific Areas.

Epidemiology, Health Officers, Laboratory, and Maternal and Child Health Sections (joint session). Topic: Some Problems in Immunization.

Industrial Hygiene Section. Topic: Industrial Sanitation Practices.

Medical Care Section. Topic: Methods of Payment for Physicians' Services in Medical Care Programs.

Public Health Education and School Health Sections, and the Western Branch Public Health Education Section. Topic: Motivation in School Health Programs.

Public Health Nursing Section. Topic: Developments and Adjustments in Public Health Nursing Service.

Wednesday, 12.30 p.m. (Luncheon Sessions).

American Association of Schools of Public Health.

Engineering Section.

Public Health Education Section.

University of California Public Health Alumni Association.

Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.

Governing Council.

Wednesday, 5 p.m.

University of North Carolina Alumni (social hour).

Wednesday, 6.30 p.m. (Dinner Sessions).

American School Health Association.

Military Government and Civil Affairs Public Health Society.

Harvard Public Health Alumni Association.

Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Association of Hospital Planning Agencies.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

Home Accident Prevention (Under the auspices of the Subcommittee on Accident Prevention of the Committee on Administrative Practice). Topic: Technical Approaches to the Home Accident Problem.

Wednesday, 8.30 p.m. (Second General Session).

Topic: International Health.

Thursday, 8 a.m. (Breakfast Session).

Yale University Alumni.

Thursday, 9.30 a.m.

Dental Health, Health Officers, and School Health Sections (joint session).

Engineering Section. Topic: Technical Developments.

Epidemiology Section.

Food and Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, and Public Health Nursing Sections (joint session). Topic: Re-evaluation of Existing Maternity Programs Health Officers, Public Health Education, and Public Health Nursing Sections (joint session). Topic: Public Relations for Public Health.

Laboratory Section.

Medical Care Section.

Workshops:

Training of Administrators for Medical Care Programs.

An Aspect of Community Health.

Merit System Service.

Statistics Section and Biometrics Society (joint session).

Topic: Methodology in Follow-up Studies.

Thursday, 12.30 p.m. (Luncheon Session).

Medical Care Section.

Thursday, 2.30 p.m.

Dental Health and Public Health Education Sections (joint session).

Engineering Section and National Association of Sanitarians (joint session).

Epidemiology and Statistics Sections, and the Biometrics Society (joint session). Topic: Methodology in Chronic Disease Morbidity Studies.

Food and Nutrition and Laboratory Sections (joint session). Topic: Newer Developments in Food Industry Sanitation.

Health Officers Section—Reports on Public Health in Japan, Great Britain, Alaska and the United States.

Industrial Hygiene, Public Health Education, and Public Health Nursing Sections (joint session). Topic: Occupational Health Problems of Community Interest.

Laboratory Section and Coordinating Committee on Laboratory Methods (joint session).

Medical Care Section. Topic: Original Research in Medical Care.

School Health Section. Topic: Evaluation Procedures in School Health—A Consideration of Some Practical Methods.

Thursday, 7 p.m. (Third General Session).

This session will mark the annual banquet. William P. Shepard, APHA President, will deliver his presidential address. Dancing will follow in the Rose Room of the Palace Hotel.

Friday, 8 a.m. (Breakfast Session).

University of Minnesota.

Friday, 9.30 a.m.

Dental Health and Statistics Sections (joint session). Topic: Management of Dental Health Statistics.

Engineering and Industrial Hygiene Sections (joint session). Topic: Air Pollution.

Epidemiology Section.

Food and Nutrition Section. Topic: Newer Developments in Food Processing.

Health Officers, Medical Care, Public Health Education, and Public Health Nursing Sections (joint session). Topic: Preventive Medicine and Health Education in Medical Care Programs.

Laboratory Section.

Friday, 12.30 p.m. (Luncheon Session).

Meeting of All Section Councils With the Editorial Board.

Friday, 2.30 p.m.

Engineering Section and Conference of State Sanitary Engineers (joint session). Topic: Civil Defense.

Food and Nutrition Section. Topic: Food and Civil Defense. Industrial Hygiene and Medical Care Sections (joint session).

Topic: Industrial Health and Social Security.

Laboratory Section.

Public Health Education Section. Topic: Health Education 'Round the World.

State Board of Public Health Supports Fluoride Program

Two California towns have been granted permits by the State Department of Public Health to fluoridate their public water supplies, and the permits have been approved by the State Board of Public Health following assurance from the Attorney General's Office that the health department action is legally within its authority.

As a result, Pleasanton and Rio Vista will probably be the first California communities to add fluoride to their public water systems for the reduction of dental decay. Any other public or private water supplier may now request similar permission.

Some doubt as to the legal powers of the State Department of Public Health to authorize fluoridation under its regular water-supply permit system arose when the 1951 Legislature rejected provisions of a bill which expressly authorized purveyors of domestic water, including utility and irrigation districts, to add fluoride. This doubt was resolved by the Attorney General's opinion and subsequent permit action.

Text of a resolution, adopted at the September 14th meeting of the State Board of Public Health, reaffirms the board's favorable stand on fluoridation and summarizes its legal status in the following words:

"WHEREAS, On August 29, 1950, the State Board of Public Health issued a statement of policy approving the addition of fluoride to public water supplies in this State subject to prior approval of the local dental and medical associations; and

"WHEREAS, The Legislature considered at the 1951 Session a bill, a portion of which specifically authorized purveyors of public water supplies, including utility and irrigation districts, to add fluoride to their water supplies under permit from the State Department of Public Health; and

"WHEREAS, This portion of that bill was not passed by the Legislature and this fact has raised doubt in many persons' minds as to the present legality of fluoridation of water supplies other than bottled water supplies in California; and

"WHEREAS, The Attorney General's Office has advised the State Department of Public Health that under existing statute there is no doubt that the department has authority to grant permits for addition of a beneficial mineral nonexistent or insufficient in those public water supplies not naturally endowed, if it finds that such treated water supplies will under all circumstances and conditions be pure, wholesome and beneficial to health; now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the State Board of Public Health finds that fluoridation of public water supplies by the placing of a normal and beneficial mineral in proper concentration in those supplies in which it does not occur in optimum amounts naturally, will tend to produce a water that under all circumstances and conditions is pure, wholesome, potable and beneficial to health; and be it further

"Resolved, That the State Board of Public Health herein reaffirms its policy statement of August 29, 1950, approving the fluoridation of public water supplies."

Public health workers wave no magic wand. The good they do is accomplished through steady, organized, patient effort which depends, in turn, upon public understanding and support. It is slow-motion drama, but drama nevertheless.—*National Parent-Teacher.*

National Health Resources Chairman to Address San Francisco Meet

"Rehabilitation—New Horizons for the Handicapped" will be the subject of an address by Howard A. Rusk, M.D., at the first public educational meeting sponsored by the new Chronic Illness Service Center, October 26th, 8.15 p.m., at the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park. Dr. Rusk is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, and Associate Editor of the New York Times.

He is Chairman of the Health Resources Advisory Committee of the National Security Resources Board, and Chairman of the National Advisory Committee on the Selection of Doctors, Dentists and Allied Specialists. He also is consultant in medical rehabilitation to the Medical Director of the Veterans Administration, to the Secretariat of the United Nations and to the Department of Hospitals, City of New York. During World War II Dr. Rusk was Chief, Army Air Forces Convalescent Services Division, with the rank of Colonel. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 1945.

Miss Mary Switzer, Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Federal Security Agency, will speak on "What Price Rehabilitation?"

Mortimer Fleishhacker, Jr., president of the center's board of directors, will preside. William P. Shepard, M.D., President of the American Public Health Association, will introduce the speakers.

Our Aging Population

There are over 11½ million people, or 7½ percent of the total population, in the United States today 65 years of age and over. There number has quadrupled during the last half century while the entire population has only doubled. In 1900 there were 3,000,000 persons 65 and over, making up about 4 percent of all our people. By 1975 we will have about 20,000,000 persons in this class.—*Social Legislation Information Service, August 27, 1951.*

Health Officer Changes

The City of Dorris, Siskiyou County, announces the appointment of Mr. Fenton Marht as Health Officer. Mr. W. H. Stickney was the former health officer.

Albert H. Newton, M.D., has been appointed Health Officer for the City of Fort Jones, Siskiyou County, succeeding Mr. J. K. Gibbel.

State Academy of General Practice to Hear Dr. Scheele

Dr. Leonard Scheele, Surgeon General of the United States Department of Public Health, will be the guest speaker for the third annual banquet of the California Academy of General Practice at its 1951 Scientific Assembly November 5th-7th in Coronado.

Purpose of the convention is to provide scientific information which the anticipated 1,000 family doctors attending can apply immediately to their own practice.

California physicians presenting scientific papers will include Drs. David Reeves of Santa Barbara, DeWitt Burnham of San Francisco, Thomas Wiper of San Francisco, Donald E. Barker of Los Angeles, Carroll C. Dundon of Los Angeles, William Benbow Thompson of Los Angeles, Laurie W. Higgins of San Diego and Ralph L. Hoffman of San Diego.

Among the wide range of subjects to be discussed are X-ray, traumatic injuries, diabetes mellitus, comatose patients, plastic problems, uterine cancer, office gynecology and obstetric emergencies.

Reservations for the meeting are available through the California Academy of General Practice, 450 Mission Street, San Francisco.

Review of Reported Communicable Disease Morbidity: August, 1951

Diseases With Incidence Exceeding the Five-year Median

Diseases	August 1951	August 1950	August 1949	5-year median
Amebiasis	42	34	26	26
Chickenpox	629	457	497	457
Food poisoning	47	101	20	20
German measles	202	158	183	107
Hepatitis, infectious	19	32	20	12
Measles	862	562	437	437
Meningococcal meningitis	26	9	24	18
Poliomyelitis	563	383	544	544
Salmonellosis	125	40	19	20
Streptococcal infectious resp. including scarlet fever	228	130	110	130
Tularemia	4	1	1	1

Diseases Below the Five-year Median

Diseases	August 1951	August 1950	August 1949	5-year median
Brucellosis	7	16	14	14
Diphtheria	11	12	30	30
Encephalitis, infectious	17	83	5	26
Malaria	6	11	12	11
Mumps	629	777	1,192	777
Pertussis	326	498	598	498
Rabies, animal	1	16	15	15
Tetanus	3	5	7	6
Typhoid fever	15	24	13	21

There was one case of anthrax and one of Hansen's disease.

Forty-seven medical schools, hospitals and medical research centers in 27 states and the District of Columbia have received federal grants to build and equip laboratories and clinics for cancer studies.

California Mosquito Abatement Agencies Receive Subvention Funds

Twenty-eight mosquito abatement agencies in California have received allocations totaling \$400,000 from state subvention funds for the current fiscal year, the Bureau of Vector Control, State Department of Public Health, announces. The allotments are determined by the Bureau of Vector Control acting on the counsel of the Vector Control Advisory Committee, and are based on local needs, area of control and nature of program.

Since the state subvention program began in 1946, organized mosquito control areas in California have expanded from approximately 7,000 square miles to over 23,000 square miles. The expansion of organized mosquito control is a continuing movement throughout California. Still greater strides must inevitably be taken in order to keep pace with the rapid expansion of irrigation practices, industrial development and population increases, which are accompanied by the constant demand for higher levels of sanitation, public health and comfort.

State subvention funds are allocated on a matching basis and in no case may exceed 50 percent of the local financing. Local agencies actually contribute nearly \$2,000,000 annually toward this program.

Agencies receiving allocations are as follows:

Agency	County	Area (sq. mi.)	Local contribution	Subvention
Butte County MAD	Butte	1,612	\$75,752.73	\$34,200.00
Clear Creek MAD	Shasta	32	7,645.00	2,930.00
Coachella Valley MAD	Riverside	2,084	32,454.00	12,500.00
Consolidated MAD	Fresno	1,047	137,804.78	26,800.00
Coscoron MAD	Kings and Tulare	90	10,402.00	5,000.00
Delano MAD	Kern and Tulare	350	29,154.30	9,930.00
Delta MAD	Tulare	705	77,723.00	19,000.00
Durham MAD	Butte	56	5,013.00	4,500.00
East Side MAD	Stanislaus	281	74,404.00	10,000.00
Fresno MAD	Fresno	302	82,400.00	19,000.00
Hanford MAD	Kings	135	24,776.00	6,000.00
Kern MAD	Kern	964	162,835.00	23,100.00
Lake County MAD	Lake	1,256	7,794.00	4,000.00
Los Angeles City Health Department	Los Angeles	428	30,397.00	10,000.00
Los Molinos MAD	Tehama	284	6,659.00	5,300.00
Madera County MAD	Madera	650	50,401.00	19,000.00
Merced County MAD	Merced	1,995	91,410.00	40,000.00
N. San Joaquin County MAD	San Joaquin	190	33,625.00	7,500.00
N. Salinas Valley MAD	Monterey	322	77,042.00	8,000.00
Orange County MAD	Orange	777	64,236.00	6,400.00
Pine Grove MAD	Shasta	210	8,334.75	5,000.00
Redding MAD	Shasta	21	17,030.00	4,000.00
Sacramento Co.-Yolo Co. MAD	Sacramento-Yolo	2,019	160,863.74	29,000.00
San Diego County Dept. of Public Health	San Diego	4,258	26,087.00	8,000.00
Solano County MAD	Solano	827	28,870.00	8,000.00
Sutter-Yuba MAD	Sutter and Yuba	725	88,235.00	31,400.00
Tulare MAD	Tulare	580	37,319.00	16,000.00
Turlock MAD	Stanislaus	966	82,220.00	25,300.00

Doctor Zobel Transfers

Dr. L. Zobel, Medical Director and Chief of the Office of Medical Programs, Region X of the U. S. Public Health Service, San Francisco, has transferred to the Division of International Health in Washington, D. C. At present no replacement has been decided.

California Project to Demonstrate New Test for Syphilis

Together with the University of California at Los Angeles and the City and County Health Departments in Los Angeles, the State Department of Public Health is sponsoring demonstrations of a new test for syphilis which may be the most accurate method yet developed for diagnosis of this disease.

Known as the Treponema Pallidum Immobilization Test, the new procedure was developed from the research of Dr. Robert Nelson of Johns Hopkins University. Blood serological tests for syphilis have hitherto failed of complete accuracy because they sometimes give false positive reactions, indicating infection in people who do not have syphilis. At Los Angeles, two U. C. L. A. specialists will attempt to confirm reports that the Treponema Pallidum Immobilization Test is specific. Until now, the test has not been available in California.

The project will concern itself with cases in which diagnosis is in doubt because of equivocal or inconsistent results with the standard procedures. Some 3,000 tests will be performed, with cooperation of the Los Angeles City and County Health Departments' venereal disease programs, and findings will be analysed to evaluate accuracy of the promising new method.

Calaveras Hospital Dedicated

Mark Twain Hospital, San Andreas, was dedicated August 26th by the Mark Twain Hospital District, which includes the entire Calaveras County. It provides 32 acute general beds and 56 beds for the chronic and custodial patients of Calaveras County, which has a population of about 10,000.

This district hospital will assume responsibility for the care of both private and indigent patients. The arrangement is undertaken through a contractual agreement with the County Board of Supervisors. The program will be observed with interest by various state and local governmental units, since similar arrangements are being considered by other rural counties.

Federal and State grants helped build only the 32 acute general beds, the remainder being financed entirely by local funds.

Today, chronic illness and disability present our greatest public health challenge * * * Chronic diseases are usually obscure in origin, slow in development, and unrecognized in their early stages, hence new methods of obtaining knowledge of their occurrence and severity must be devised.—*Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele.*

Marriage Patterns in California Analyzed by Department

Tabulations of data on California marriages by age, race and sex have been made for the first time, and the Bureau of Records and Statistics has issued a summary for the year 1949 from which the following facts are abstracted.

There were 77,873 marriages in 1949; giving the State a marriage rate of 7.4 per thousand population. Slightly more than 5,000 of these marriages were of nonwhite residents.

The age pattern of marriages in California was not an unusual one. Most people married fairly young. The largest group of marriages—13,168—took place between women aged 15-19 and men of 20-24. Except for this group Californians on the whole tended to marry persons near their own age. A few individual exceptions occurred, and in one instance a bride of 65 married a man from the 15-19 age group. Both brides and grooms in the 65-plus category sometimes married into younger age groups, but most stayed within their own group.

Women followed the usual pattern of marrying at a younger age than men. Almost 60 percent of the brides were under 25 as compared with 43 percent of the bridegrooms. At the other end of the scale there were 700 women and 1,535 men who married at age 65 and over.

Of the 77,873 males who married during 1949, approximately 20,000 recorded previous marriages. Women married previously exceeded the male group by 2,000. One bride had already attained veteran status at age 14.

Course in Tropical Medicine Offered to Nurses

The second annual course in *Parasitology and Tropical Hygiene for Nurses* has been scheduled by the School of Tropical and Preventive Medicine of Loma Linda, California, to run from January 28 to February 22, 1952. Though designed primarily for graduate nurses who are going to the tropics as mission board appointees, the course will be valuable to any nurses interested in tropical public health. The four-week study represents a full-time program and includes instruction in parasitology, laboratory methods, tropical hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, and tropical medicine and nursing. It is one of several courses offered by the school of tropical medicine throughout the year in conjunction with other schools of the College of Medical Evangelists.

Joint Action on Sanitation Planned for Play Areas

With more and more people flocking to recreational areas in California, joint efforts of all federal, state and local interests concerned are being mustered to solve the critical sanitation problems which have developed.

Water supply, sewer disposal and garbage disposal facilities are now inadequate in many vacation spots, while in many cases the limited facilities available have not been fully maintained. The situation is underscored by the closing of U. S. Forest Service camps around Bass Lake, where the Madera County health officer reported that eight times as many campers swarmed into this area as could be accommodated by existing sanitary facilities.

The State Department of Public Health has now held conferences with local health officers and with representatives of the U. S. Forest Service and Public Health Service, at which all parties agreed that a coordinated plan is needed for the construction and maintenance of sanitation systems. Further conferences are planned to bring the emergency to the attention of public officials having jurisdiction, and to lay out a program of orderly planning, new construction, and good maintenance of sanitation in the critical areas.

To stimulate solution of known problems wherever possible, the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering this year assigned a staff member to work with forest rangers in making local improvements as far as funds available would permit. The Forest Service is obviously handicapped in taking many of the steps recommended for its camps by a very inadequate budget for sanitation.

Hawaii Calls

Charles L. Wilbar, M.D., President and Executive Officer of the Territory of Hawaii Board of Health, extends to delegates attending the APHA meeting in San Francisco October 29th-November 2d an invitation to visit Hawaii during the following week. In addition to seeing the "Paradise of the Pacific," visitors are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Hawaii Public Health Association on November 5th and 6th. Dr. C. J. Van Slyke, Director of the National Heart Institute, will be principal speaker.

Special off-season strato-cruiser rates are being offered by the airlines for tourist travel if the round-trip is completed within 16 days.

Morbidity Research Project Begins in San Jose

San Jose has been selected as the proving ground for an important research project, to try out various methods for measuring the amount of illness and disability in the general population. New in the field of medicine and public health, the project is to be conducted by the State Department of Public Health with the cooperation of the Santa Clara County Medical Society, San Jose City and Santa Clara County Health Departments, and other local agencies and groups. It will be financed by a research grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Planning and other assistance to the project is coming from a state-wide advisory committee whose members represent the California Medical Association, Association of California Hospitals, Conference of Local Health Officers, California Physicians' Service, University of California, State Department of Employment, State Department of Industrial Relations and other organizations.

Workers in medicine and public health have long felt the need for current and reliable information on the incidence and prevalence of illness in the general population, and the disability it causes. Such statistics are needed to determine the extent and magnitude of public health problems, to determine the need for health services and facilities, and to evaluate the progress being made in controlling specific diseases and groups of diseases. Up to now, only part of this story has been known, through records on the reportable diseases (mostly the acute communicable ailments) and on causes of death listed on death certificates. Only estimates—often based on obsolete, fragmentary data relevant to other states or only to minor portions of the population—have been available for the chronic diseases and many nonreportable illnesses and disabilities. It has been evident that we not only lack accurate data on many major health problems, but do not even know what methods should be used to find the facts.

It is significant that the "Morbidity Research Project" now to begin in San Jose will devote its first year to testing various methods of finding out about illness: in other words, the destination cannot be reached until roads which lead there can be found and explored.

The methods which will be explored are briefly these:

During the study period illness data will be obtained from all hospitals in the San Jose area, and directly from residents. For the latter, the household sample survey method will be used. To verify and supplement information from household informants, copies will be obtained of death certificates, reports of notifiable diseases, reports of industrial injuries and

workmen's compensation cases, reports of physically handicapped children, and so on. Family illnesses reported as medically attended will be verified as to diagnosis by a visit or letter to the family physician. Additional sources of information are the California Disability Insurance Program, California Physicians' Service, and Blue Cross plan.

San Jose and a section of its rural environs was chosen as the research area for this project because its population, economy and health facilities make up a cross section which can be considered typical of the State as a whole. If one or more satisfactory methods are developed in this test area for measuring morbidity in the general population, these methods will then be applied on a state-wide basis. This experiment will no doubt attract the interest of every other state in the Nation.

Board of Public Health Amends Code Relating to Local Lab Services

An amendment to the California Administrative Code (Title 17, Public Health), which specifies that laboratory services of local health departments serving more than 50,000 persons shall be provided by the health department or by an approved local agency convenient to the health department, has been adopted by the State Board of Public Health. The amendment became part of Section 1276, Chapter 3 (Local Health Service), Subchapter 1 (Standards for State Aid to Local Public Health Administration).

This board action, which was preceded by approval of the amendment by the California Conference of Local Health Officers, is a further step to encourage the development of public health laboratories by local departments, and to insure availability of adequate services locally. It means, in effect, that local departments serving more than 50,000 persons can no longer contract with the State Department of Public Health for the provision of their laboratory services. The regulations previously specified only that the local departments "maintain" public health laboratory services, which permitted such services to be provided by the State Division of Laboratories on a contractual basis at the rate of 10 cents per capita.

In California 32 of the 58 counties and 10 cities now have their own public health laboratories. An additional county contracts locally for its laboratory services. Of the 26 remaining counties, only one serves a population of more than 50,000, and thus at present is the only jurisdiction which fails to provide public health laboratory services locally as called for by the new amendment.

Sale Halted on Cure-all

The Bureau of Food and Drug Inspections this month reports successful termination at San Diego of a year-long investigation of the most expensive "atomic" cure-all yet to appear in California.

The "Radiumator," offered for sale to undercover agents of the bureau for \$10,000, was touted as capable of curing not only heart trouble, kidney disease and sexual debility, but wilted flowers. Actual therapeutic agent, said the entrepreneurs, was the radioactive water produced by this machine, whose beneficent effects came from "the interaction of alpha and beta rays stimulating oxidation in adjacent animal and plant tissues."

Protection against gamma-ray sunburn, the investigators learned, was assured by the lead wall which surrounded the radium chamber of the Radiumator—but it was guaranteed that "sufficient radium gas would be released to activate every six ounces of water exposed to the machine with 20,000 Mache units."

Vastly impressed, the department agents paid over a deposit of \$300 for the Radiumator, with \$9,700 owing. Money was paid in marked bills, and at this stage of the transaction arrests were made.

Prior arrangements made in cooperation with the San Diego District Attorney's office and the county sheriff involved the use of a wire recorder, the marked bills, and a stakeout of officers at the site where the atomic cure-all was to be purchased.

Upon arrest the two defendants were arraigned in the San Diego Municipal Court at once and charged with attempted grand theft. Preliminary trial was held this month, and the case bound over to superior court. Bail for each defendant was set at \$5,000.

State Civil Service Exams

The State Personnel Board announces nationwide and continuous examinations for *Occupational Therapist I* and *Physical Therapist I*, to be scheduled on an individual basis upon receipt of applications and in locations near the residence of the applicants. Employment is chiefly in one of the state institutions under the Department of Mental Hygiene. Salary range is \$268 to \$325. Further information on these positions may be obtained from the State Personnel Board in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, or local offices of the California Department of Employment.

New Four-year School of Nursing Opened on U. C. L. A. Campus

U. C. L. A.'s new school of nursing—the first of its kind in the United States to offer a unique four-year program in nursing education—opened its doors in September. In most schools, the University of California states, five years of combined college and hospital training have been required for the qualified nurse.

U. C. L. A.'s new school is unique also for its close interweaving of general and professional education. It will provide studies for registered nurses as well as for public health nurses and graduate students working toward advanced degrees.

Lulu K. Wolf, dean of the new school, states that social, emotional and health aspects of nursing will be emphasized throughout the curriculum. Nursing laboratory practice under the guidance of faculty members will be provided in hospitals, outpatient clinics, schools, homes, nursery schools, child guidance clinics and community health centers.

The U. C. L. A. Nursing School will occupy temporary quarters until the new \$15,500,000 medical center is completed. Meanwhile, students will do their nursing laboratory practice in the 1,500-bed Wadsworth General Hospital at the Veterans Administration Center in West Los Angeles. When the U. C. L. A. Medical Center is completed, Wadsworth Hospital will continue to be utilized as an additional teaching facility.

Santa Barbara School Health Post Taken by Wilma Becknell

Miss Wilma Becknell, for several years health educator with the Santa Barbara County Health Department, has resigned that position to accept the appointment of Coordinator of Health Education in the Office of the Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools.

Miss Becknell was one of the first health educators to be employed by a local health department in California. Prior to her work in this State, she was employed as a public health educator in Michigan and as a school teacher in Kentucky.

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